

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/029 W

----- 062269

R 051100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6234

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: WARSAW YOUTH CONFERENCE

REFS: A. BONN 765 (NOTAL); B. STATE 210930 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE FRG YOUTH COUNCIL HAS THREATENED TO DROO ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE WARSAW CONFERENCE, THE SO-CALLED EUROPEAN YOUTH SECURITY CONFERENCE, UNLESS THE FORMAT AND THEMES ARE AGREED UPON BEFORE APRIL. NONE-THELESS, ITS SECRETARY GENERAL BELIEVES THE CONFERENCE WILL STILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED, WITH THE U.S. PLAYING AN ACTIVE GUEST ROLE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET FEBRUARY 4 WITH GERMAN YOUTH COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL ERIC BETTERMANN, FRG DELEGATE TO THE JANUARY PREPARATORY MEETING IN OSLO, TO DETERMINE THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY OF BLANNING FOR THE JUNE 20-27 WARSAW YOUTH CONFERENCE.

2. BETTERMANN WENT INTO FURTHER DETAIL ON THE CONFUSED OSLO PREPARATORY MEETING, OBSERVING THE FRENCH YOUNG COMMUNISTS WERE PERHAPS MORE AT FAULT THAN ANY OTHER COMMUNIST DELEGATION FOR INSISTING THAT DELEGATIONS TO THE WARSAW MEETING BE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO NATIONAL RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTITIES, I.E., WFDY, CENYC, IUS. THE ITALIANS, ROMANIANS AND YUGOSLAVS THEN ENDORSED THIS APPROACH, MUCH TO THE DISCOMFORT OF THE WFDY AND THE IUS. IRONICALLY, BETTERMANN FINDS HE MUST SUPPORT THE RUSSIANS (WHO OF COURSE STRONGLY INFLUENCE THE WFDY AND IUS) IN THIS CONTROVERSY, OTHERWISE HE MIGHT FIND HIMSELF HARD PRESSED TO INCLUDE WEST GERMAN COMMUNISTS IN THE GERMAN YOUTH COUNCIL DELEGATION. THE GERMAN YOUTH COUNCIL HAS HOWEVER ALREADY TURNED DOWN APPLICATIONS ATTEMPTS BY YOUNG COMMUNISTS AT LEAST TEN TIMES. BETTERMANN POINTED OUT THAT SUCH COMMUNIST INCLUSION COULD WRECK THE FRG'S YOUTH COUNCIL AS IT NOW EXISTS.

3. BETTERMANN COMPLIMENTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS LOBBYING EFFORTS IN VARIOUS CAPITALS TO ASSURE AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVITATION TO AN AMERICAN YOUTH GROUP TO THE WARSAW MEETING. HE STATED THAT ABOUT THE ONLY POSITIVE

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DECISION REACHED AT OSLO, UNOFFICIAL AS IT MAY HAVE

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BEEN, WAS THE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT AN AMERICAN DELEGATION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS AN ACTIVE QUEST PARTICIPANT. HE REITERATED HIS EARLIER OBSERVATION HOWEVER THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION COULD NOT EXPECT AT THIS LATE STAGE TO BE BROUGHT INTO PLANNING THE WARSAW AGENDA.

4. BETTERMANN WAS UNHAPPY THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WARSAW MEETING WERE AT THE PRESENT STILLSTAND. HE HAS INFORMED THE WFDY AND THE CENCY THAT UNLESS: 1) ORGANIZATION STATUS (INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL OR SEPARATE REPRESENTATION), 2) NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, AND 3) THEMES ARE AGREED UPON BEFORE THE END OF MARCH, THE GERMAN YOUTH COUNCIL WOULD DROP ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING. LAST WEEK HE WAS TOLD BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GDR'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION THAT THE REPRESENTATION SQUABBLE AMONGST THE COMMUNISTS WAS "A FAMILY MATTER AND WILL NOT POSE A PROBLEM." IT IS INTERESTING, BETTERMANN COMMENTED, THAT THE YOUNG FRENCH COMMUNISTS ARE NOT AS STRONG ----- AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT. THIS IN TURN APPEARS TO LIMIT THE FORCE OF THEIR VIEWS. BETTERMANN IS THEREFORE HOPEFUL THAT THE JUNE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED.
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